

DEMOCRATS' WAR ON AFFORDABLE ENERGY

(Mr. SMITH of Missouri asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, families everywhere are feeling the pain of Washington Democrats' radical climate agenda.

President Biden launched the war on American energy when he canceled the Keystone XL pipeline on his first day in office. He has also banned new lease sales for oil and gas, and his regulatory onslaught is limiting U.S. energy production.

As a result, Americans are paying the price for the far left's costly energy agenda every time they flip a light switch, buy groceries, or drive to work.

But that is the goal of Washington Democrats' climate agenda: Drive up the cost of traditional energy sources to force our Nation's transition to alternatives that are less reliable, widely unavailable, and even more expensive.

America cannot afford the left's war on affordable energy. What America needs right now is the all-of-the-above energy agenda put in place by President Trump and Republicans in Congress.

CELEBRATING CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

(Mr. BOWMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Caribbean American Heritage Month.

New York's 16th Congressional District is a rich bastion of many Caribbean communities and cultures. I am proud to represent constituents from the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Grenada, Haiti, Saint Lucia, the Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and many more.

The vibrancy and brilliance of this community have shaped the essence of our district and this Nation. The impact of Caribbean heritage on the State of New York and our country is tremendous.

I specifically recognize the impact of three organizations that celebrate Caribbean culture in our district. The All Islands Association, the Jamaican Progressive League, and the Dominican Cultural Association of Yonkers have been critical in empowering neighbors and delivering critical resources and services.

I am proud to represent such a diverse community of people and honored to continue making New York 16 a better place for all as we work for better housing, immigration, workers' and care rights, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

DAIRY INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTES TO HEALTHY CHILDREN

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Dairy Month, which we celebrate each June.

The dairy industry is a major force in our economy. It is the largest single segment of New York's agricultural industry. There are more than 3,500 dairy farms across New York. This month and every month, we celebrate their contributions to communities across America.

Many of the dairy farms in the 22nd District are family owned and operated. As they continue to recover from the disruptions of the pandemic, I will work tirelessly to support our local dairy farmers the same way they worked tirelessly to deliver for our communities and our Nation.

People of all ages, especially children, receive crucial nutrients to grow healthy and strong by drinking milk. That is why I have cosponsored bipartisan legislation like the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act to ensure that every child will have access to nutrition-rich milk in school cafeterias, just like the awesome chocolate milk that I got when I was growing up. As Elon Musk said, "Chocolate milk is insanely good."

As we celebrate National Dairy Month, we appreciate the dairy farmers who both drive our local economies and ensure our communities are healthy. Let's put milk, whole milk, and chocolate milk back in our schools.

BABY FORMULA SHORTAGE CRISIS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, according to a new whistleblower report, OSHA had reports of health and safety problems at the Michigan baby formula plant all the way back in February 2021. That is a year before the plant was indefinitely shut down by FDA and well over a year before the Biden administration even acknowledged it.

The administration knew for at least months, if not well over a year, that this crisis would happen with the shortages, but they failed to act because they didn't consider it a top-level crisis. Now, over 70 percent of the Nation's baby formula is out of stock. In what universe is that not a top-level crisis?

How is it possible that our FDA is so incompetent that they sat idle for 14 months, knowing full well that American babies and families would suffer shortages?

How inept is the administration that they would admit to knowing about this looming crisis for months but ignored it?

How cruel is the Biden administration that while American parents desperately search for formula for their babies, the administration is taking it right off the shelves and shipping it down to the border?

Even the Biden administration's deal with the Abbott plant to restart production will take 6 to 8 weeks to put formula back on the shelves. People can't wait that long.

The Biden administration should have addressed this worsening baby formula shortage when House Republicans raised the alarm months ago. We will hold this administration accountable for this issue.

CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MANNING). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I are here today for this Special Order hour to celebrate Pride Month.

Pride is a time of celebration of our community and its diversity. It is a time to uplift LGBTQ+ people all across the country and honor our identities and how these individuals have shaped our lives.

Pride is also a time of action. Fifty-three years ago, LGBTQ+ patrons fought back against discrimination and police harassment at New York's Stonewall Inn. Now, we need to harness that same strength and determination to fight back against State legislatures' attacks against our community, especially trans and nonbinary kids.

For every person able to celebrate Pride Month, there are others who are struggling. There are countless people unable to come out because of discrimination, harassment, and threats of violence. In too many States, this discrimination is being led by elected officials.

Here in Congress, the Congressional LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus fights every day so that all people, regardless of sexual identification or gender identity, can live their lives openly and have every opportunity to be successful and to lead happy lives.

I am proud to have introduced the Equality Act, along with every single member of the Democratic Caucus as cosponsors, to ensure that LGBTQ+ people are protected from discrimination in key areas of life. I also introduced the Global Respect Act to deny

visas to those who commit gross human rights abuses against members of the LGBTQ+ community around the world.

Both of these bills passed the House with bipartisan support, and I urge the Senate to quickly do the same and advance LGBTQ+ equality both at home and abroad.

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As chair of the Equality Caucus, I will never stop fighting so that all LGBTQ+ people, no matter where they live or how they identify, can live their lives openly with the full protections of our Federal laws.

We have made important progress this Congress. In addition to passing several LGBTQ+ bills through the House, two key caucus priority bills have also become law: H.R. 49, to designate the Pulse nightclub as a National Memorial, and S. 937, which included the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act, which provides for grants to improve data collection of hate crimes, including hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity, and grants for States to create hotlines to assist victims of hate crimes.

I am so grateful we have a devoted ally to the LGBTQ+ community in the White House who signed both of these bills into law. President Biden has been a champion for our community. Just last week, he signed an executive order advancing LGBTQ+ equality during Pride Month. This executive order aligns with the goals of numerous bills introduced by Equality Caucus members.

But we are not done fighting for LGBTQ+ equality. Later this week, we will be voting on the LGBTQ+ Data Inclusion Act to ensure Federal surveys collect information on the LGBTQ+ community. We know better data leads to better policies, and this bill will ensure we have the data we need to draft the best solutions to address the needs of our community.

It has been an especially difficult year for our community, particularly for transgender and nonbinary youth who are under attack across the country.

Please know that the Congressional LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus and I will never stop fighting for you. You deserve to live your lives openly, free from discrimination or harassment, and to have every opportunity to succeed as your non-LGBTQ+ peers.

This Pride Month, we all have to recommit to fighting for true equality for all, every single person in our country, no matter where they live, no matter their gender identity or sexual orientation.

I am so grateful to be joined today by several of my colleagues who are helping to lead this fight for LGBTQ+ equality in the Halls of Congress, and I look forward to hearing from them during this Special Order hour.

I again extend a happy Pride to everyone.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON), a member of the Equality Caucus, a strong advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, who took time out of a markup to be sure that he could be a part of this Special Order. For that, we are incredibly grateful.

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, I want to start by thanking my remarkable colleague for his courageous leadership, truly courageous leadership, on this and so many other issues for the House of Representatives.

I rise today to celebrate and honor the LGBTQ+ community during Pride Month.

As we uplift this diverse and resilient community, I would like to use my time to spotlight the unique challenges faced by two important groups: LGBTQ+ youth and LGBTQ+ veterans.

Today, a growing contingent of the Republican Party is scapegoating LGBTQ+ youth and veterans through ignorant rhetoric and irresponsible policies. Their words and actions are worsening an already devastating mental health crisis among these kids.

Being a teenager is hard enough. You are finding your place, figuring out who you are and what you want to do. Now imagine waking up each day and hearing the people who are supposed to be leaders tearing you down, villainizing who you are, all for political gain.

This is unconscionable, and it has real-life consequences.

The Trevor Project estimates that more than 1.8 million LGBTQ+ young people attempt or seriously consider suicide every year in the United States.

Another group whose challenges we don't talk about enough are LGBTQ+ veterans, who experience higher rates of depression and more frequent thoughts of suicide than others.

I served with gay and bisexual great Americans in the Marines. For years under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," one of my very good friends, Joe, kept the fact that he is gay hidden so that he could put his life on the line for our country in Iraq.

Then when he got out of the Marines, he came out of the closet. But a year after that, in 2007, he got recalled to Active Duty. All he had to do to avoid another deployment was to pick up the phone and say two words to the Department of Defense: "I'm gay." But he didn't. He didn't want anyone to go in his place. So he went back into the closet so that he could go back to the war, putting his life on the line again for another tour.

Joe, like so many others in his shoes, chose to serve our country. Yet, simply because of who they are, these patriots have dealt with unforgivable discrimination. For many LGBTQ+ vets, the mental health impacts are lifelong.

The scope of this mental health crisis is broad. We have come a long way, but we are facing a moment where that progress is at risk of moving backward instead of forward.

On July 16, we will take one big step forward when the 988 mental health emergencies hotline goes live.

Just like dialing 911 during a medical emergency, every single American will now have access to another easy-to-remember number.

This is just the first step. It is my hope that in the future, dialing 988 will give LGBTQ+ people the option to speak with someone who is specially trained to address the unique challenges faced by this community. LGBTQ+ Americans need to know that they can have access to the mental health resources they need just by picking up the phone. Because every American should know, in a time of crisis, you are not alone.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very powerful words and for being here tonight.

As Congressman MOULTON was speaking, I was thinking of Congressman PAPPAS, because Congressman PAPPAS has been a great champion for veterans. He serves as a distinguished member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Veterans' Affairs Committee and in that role has been an extraordinary national leader on veterans' issues.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS), a co-chairman of the Equality Caucus and a champion for the LGBTQ+ community.

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative CICILLINE for organizing this Special Order hour.

I rise to mark Pride Month. Pride is an important opportunity for all of us, regardless of our orientation, to come together and celebrate our Nation's diversity and to keep striving to perfect this Union, to make sure that there is truly freedom and equality for all.

As a gay person growing up in New Hampshire, it wasn't always easy for me to see a path forward and to know that there would be a place for me in my community. But I am really fortunate that my family and my community welcomed me for who I am. I couldn't be more proud today to be able to serve them in Congress and to continue this fight for equality.

All people deserve to live their lives as their true selves, without fear of harassment, discrimination, violence, or imprisonment. But we know many LGBTQ+ Americans don't have the same legal protections that are guaranteed to others. No one should be a second-class citizen in this country, and they shouldn't be a second-class citizen anywhere in the world just for being LGBTQ+. Unfortunately, we know that far too many people face violence and persecution just for being who they are.

In Afghanistan today, LGBTQ+ people have been harassed, attacked, and sexually assaulted due to their sexual orientation and gender identity.

I called for the State Department to allow LGBTQ+ Afghans to access the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program to

help them ensure that they could find safety because of Taliban rule, which we know now threatens LGBTQ+ individuals with the prospect of a violent death.

Russia, which has banned same-sex marriage, recently shutdown the country's main LGBTQ+ organization, and there are reports that Russia plans to target the LGBTQ+ community in Ukraine during its invasion.

As we speak, we know Brittney Griner, who is an openly gay WNBA player, remains wrongfully detained by Russian authorities.

It should concern us all that an American has been wrongfully detained abroad in any circumstance, but that is made even more troubling by the fact that Russia's laws don't accommodate and protect the community. We have seen a recent uptick in vigilante violence against LGBTQ+ individuals in that country.

In our own country, we still haven't yet banned the use of the so-called "gay panic" or "trans panic" defenses in Federal court that can be used to actually blame victims of violence for the violence that is committed against them. I have introduced legislation in Congress to ban these so-called defenses, and it is time to get it done. They legitimize homophobia and transphobia that leads to violence against LGBTQ+ people, and we must end their use.

We see too much homophobia and transphobia that has no place in America today. Last year, in my home State of New Hampshire, a man was punched in the face in downtown Manchester just for holding hands with his boyfriend walking downtown. His assailant later told investigators that he didn't approve of homosexuality. This happened in my community in 2021.

Just last year, we saw transphobic attacks in the neighboring town of Derry that caused a community event to have to be moved to a different venue for safety reasons.

This is just not the New Hampshire way, it is not the American way, and it shows that we have work to do at all levels to combat this.

I hope that people out there who fear for their safety know that there are LGBTQ+ individuals who are fighting for them in the U.S. House of Representatives and lots of policymakers who are allies working to ensure that you can live your lives free of harassment, discrimination, and violence.

We have got to pass the Equality Act to ensure that all Americans can live free from discrimination and to send the unequivocal message that every LGBTQ+ American and their families matter. Doing so will give full legal protection to all Americans, regardless of who they are or whom they love.

This legislation is crucial, and it is especially crucial as we see what the Supreme Court is poised to do, on the verge of overturning landmark precedent, and rolling back the fundamental right to privacy in this country.

I know these challenges can seem daunting. We do feel that there is an uneven march toward progress, where sometimes we take a couple steps forward and then we see a step backward.

I remember my first speech on the floor of the New Hampshire House of Representatives in my early twenties. We were fighting against a bill that would have prevented New Hampshire from recognizing same-sex marriages performed in Massachusetts. We were fighting against that legislation. We lost the fight. We came up short.

But in just a matter of a few years, we saw civil unions and then same-sex marriage approved legislatively, signed by our Governor into law in New Hampshire, because those elected officials were reflecting the will of the people and recognizing that the country is changing and moving forward and that our laws need to catch up.

So Pride Month is a time to rededicate ourselves to a fight that we still need to win. We move forward by promoting equality because it is important to lift each other up. It is important to ensure that everyone can live openly as their true self.

To everyone out there, no matter your sexual orientation, your gender identity, your profession, or where you call home, you should be proud of who you are. This is how we are going to continue to change this country for the better and move forward and ensure that everyone is included.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman PAPPAS so much for his powerful words and for his leadership and the example he has set.

Madam Speaker, I will now call on another co-chairman of the Equality Caucus, an extraordinarily distinguished member of the Financial Services Committee and Homeland Security Committee and someone who, though he is very young, has, throughout his entire life, been a great inspiration to young LGBTQ Americans and continues that great tradition as a Member of Congress.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a gay man in Congress. I stand here as living proof that the long arc of history bends toward LGBTQ equality.

I am the first Latino and Black LGBTQ Member of Congress, and I proudly serve as vice chair of the Homeland Security Committee.

Back in the 1950s, President Eisenhower issued an executive order declaring people like me to be a threat to homeland security. Out of his executive order came the "lavender scare," the systematic purge of gay people from the ranks of Federal employment.

So the LGBTQ experience in America is as much about pain as it is about pride. We have seen the lives and livelihoods of untold numbers of people ravaged by homophobia.

I wish to speak about one of those people, Walter Jenkins, who served

honorably during the Johnson administration, in a time of national turmoil, only to have his brilliant career cut short by homophobia.

On October 15, 1964, a columnist named William White wrote a tribute to Mr. Jenkins. It was so poignantly and eloquently written that it bears reading on the House floor, and so read it, I will.

□ 1930

The title is, "A Graveyard Marked Despair."

A human tragedy of measureless pathos, a tragedy to tear the heart as few things have ever done in my 50-odd years of rather urgent living is the story of Walter Jenkins.

It is too early to say what effects there may be from Jenkins' resignation, as one of the special White House assistants, in dreadful circumstances involving his arrest on disorderly conduct charges. Nor does this columnist now concern himself in the slightest way with this question. When one sees a friend bury a lost career, common humanity requires at least a brief wait at a graveside marked despair before reckoning up who else has gained or lost what.

The present purpose has nothing to do with partisanship or even with politics in general. It is simply to stand as a human being with Walter Jenkins, to make one man's testimony to Walter Jenkins, in an hour for him and his wife and his six children of a sorrow and horror that has come to few even in the harsh profession to which he has given his life.

I have just come from the hospital room of Walter Jenkins. It is a scene that will burn forever in the memory of one whose own profession as a correspondent has caused him to see much of human suffering—the death of so many in battle, the death of hope for so many others.

Walter Jenkins I have known for 20 years. Walter Jenkins I saluted in print when he became President Johnson's assistant upon Mr. JOHNSON's accession to the White House after another tragedy just short of 12 months ago. I said then of Walter Jenkins that he was one of the most honorable, most conscientious, and most truly moral men I ever knew. I repeat the statement today—every word of it.

For the Walter Jenkins I now see in this time of trouble is a Walter Jenkins broken at last under the terrible pressures it has been my sad lot to observe in life. I do not know precisely what in this shattered state he may have done or not done. I have not asked him; and I do not intend to ask him.

But this I do know if I have any human judgment at all: Here is a man long suffering from combat fatigue as surely as any man ever suffered in battle; and of that kind of combat fatigue I have seen plenty, too. At the hospital I told this to his doctor. The doctor replied softly, "Yes, you are right. Except that for this kind of combat fatigue, they give no medals."

When President Johnson came to power, in a frightened and divided Nation, suffering the shock of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, he put all his enormous heart and energies into reuniting the Nation and keeping its ancient institution going on, levelly and unafraid. So did Walter Jenkins to the last extent of his own talents and his own strength.

It was not easy for any of the Johnson people. They had their sophisticated sniping detractors—behind their backs within the Democratic Party as well as in front of them among their natural and proper Republican opposition. Jenkins became, next to the

President himself, the chief whipping boy. Totally dedicated, tolerant and forgiving beyond ready belief, he patiently worked his 15-hour day, his 7-day week, while the biters bit—and bit and bit—at him.

As month after month wore on, Jenkins developed a red and frightening flush that told even a layman of a dangerously high blood pressure. But, like the President, he never called for either the medic or the chaplain, as they used to say in the Army. There was work to be done—and for at least 15 years—long before the White House days—he had worked far too hard.

Finally, he reached that point of utter physical and nervous and emotional exhaustion which will at the end, break any man of any size. So now he is broken. So now they say this and that of him. But the actions—actual or only alleged, true or trumped up—of men broken in battle are not held against them by civilized men.

So, there is, at last, this to say. For 46 years Walter Jenkins has lived a life of decency, of high public service, of courage, of honor and devotion. If there has in fact been a slip, it has not been from the real, the true, Walter Jenkins. It has been from the shattered man—the man who has known no rest but now must have rest to regain his true self.

Let he who wishes cast the first stone. But any man who tries to make capital of this man's tragedy will forever lessen himself in the eyes of a judgment that is infinitely more important than a mere political judgment—the judgment of decent humankind.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words and for the example that he set.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS), my friend, a member of the Equality Caucus, and an incredibly strong advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, a cosponsor of the Equality Act, and a cosponsor of every single piece of legislation that has come to the floor of consequence to our community.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, it is a profound honor to be the Congresswoman from Oakland County standing here this evening with my colleagues from the Equality Caucus recognizing and celebrating Pride Month.

Gay rights. Nonbinary rights. Lesbian rights. Trans rights. Trans students' rights. Bisexual rights.

You are seen. You are loved. And you belong.

We say rights because your rights are indeed human rights. Gay rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights. And in the plight to end discrimination, the words ring out that were spoken in the Michigan State House chamber just recently by a self-proclaimed straight, White, married, Christian, suburban mom, Mallory McMorrow, who declared very loudly for the Nation to hear that hate won't win; that we will not stand for those who do not seek to govern, who do not seek to tackle gun violence, to marginalize already marginalized people.

We speak the words of the only openly gay State senator from Michigan, Jeremy Moss, who rightly pointed out that it was not the trans community that stormed the Capitol on January 6. Oh, no.

We celebrate our milestones in Michigan. We celebrate our significant individuals who are making history today: My friend, Amanda Shelton, running to be the first lesbian to serve on the Oakland County Circuit Court, joining our first openly gay Oakland County Circuit judge, Jay Cunningham.

We have Dana Nessel, our attorney general, the first openly gay State-wide elected individual.

In my own office, we have John Martin as head of the LGBTQ Staff Association, hailing from Grosse Pointe, serving in my office.

Pride Month is a proclamation. It is a self-affirmation. It is a bolstering of our friends in the LGBTQ community, and it is a bolstering of a movement we are still pushing for.

Yes, it is joy. Yes, it is love. Yes, it is the declaration that love will be louder than your hate. We celebrate pride. I invite all of you to join us in Michigan to do so because no pride event is bigger or bolder than the place that I call home, whether we are marching in Detroit or marching in Ferndale, where people are free to be themselves.

Ferndale, Michigan, the home of affirmations, decades and decades of LGBTQ rights, right here in Oakland County, Michigan. From Oakland County to the Halls of Congress, I speak these words.

Harvey Milk reminds us: It takes no compromise to give people their rights. It takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no money to end political division and to give people freedom, and it certainly takes no survey to remove repression.

It takes Pride Month to love louder. It takes Pride Month to remind us how we will overcome. It takes Pride Month to remind and to push to end harassment and discrimination that, yes, have seeped into the Halls of the Congress; where on the Committee on Education and Labor, I had to take a committee vote to vote "no," because a colleague who I serve with and vote with here said that if we are going to do mental health on college campuses, we should strip the protections for the LGBTQ community. That took place in the year 2022.

But our love is louder this Pride Month. Our love is certainly louder and ringing, with my friend, Congressman CICILLINE, through his great leadership in Rhode Island to my friend, CHRIS PAPPAS in New Hampshire, to my friend, RITCHIE TORRES from New York—history-makers in their own right.

Troy Perry, the reverend: The Lord is my shepherd and he certainly knows I am gay.

Together, we celebrate, we recognize, we overcome, and we continue in the pursuit for gay rights in this country.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her words and her tremendous support of the LGBTQ+ community.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), my friend, a member of the Equality Caucus, a strong and consistent advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, the lead sponsor of the House LGBTQIA+ Pride Month resolution for many, many years, and a great champion for our community.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. CICILLINE, for the opportunity.

Madam Speaker, I am a proud ally and member of the Congressional LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus. Why? I will share with you a brief vignette.

When I was a much younger person, I had a friend whose name was Glen. Glen was small in stature. He never bothered anybody. He was friendly, gregarious; very much outgoing. I didn't understand Glen, but I had friends who thought they understood him.

My friends, Mr. CICILLINE, would pick on Glen. They called him queer. They invited him to do things that were unacceptable. I never spoke up for Glen. I saw him and left. I had the opportunity to take a stand for justice and against hate.

My friend, Glen, has gone on to glory, and I have allowed his memory to haunt me because of my failure to do what I could easily have done. I am an ally because I have seen the behavior of people who disrespect the humanity that every person merits by virtue of just being born. That is all.

The Constitution recognizes my rights, recognizes your rights. It doesn't grant us a right, and we didn't recognize Glen's rights.

As a result, I will probably do many things in life to try to make up for my failure at a time when someone needed me and I could have been there, and I wasn't.

□ 1945

So to my friend Glen, I have introduced the LGBTQIA+ Pride Month Resolution. It encourages the celebration of the month of June as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, and it tracks the accomplishments and milestones in the fight for LGBTQIA+ equality. It has 102 original cosponsors.

I have done more than this. I have introduced H.R. 166, the Fair Lending for All Act. This piece of legislation passed the House recently, by the way, as part of the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act. This piece of legislation would clarify and extend antidiscrimination laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

I thank the Honorable MAXINE WATERS for helping to bring this legislation to the floor. In fact, but for her, it would not have been to the floor for the vote that it received.

Here is the most significant aspect of the legislation. Not only does it indicate that you can't discriminate based upon sexual orientation or gender identity; it makes it a crime to do so—a crime to do so. Some things bear repeating. It can serve as a mnemonic device. It makes it a crime to do so.

If the banks are defrauded, you, as a citizen, can be fined up to \$1 million. Nothing comparable to this exists if a person happens to have a gender identity or sexual orientation that is unacceptable to a loan officer, and the loan officer concludes that you are not worthy of a loan that you are qualified for in all other ways. If this bill passes the Senate, not only will it be a crime, but you will do time if you are found guilty, and you will have to pay a fine.

There are some things that we ought not tolerate in life, and that is invidious discrimination against anyone. We ought not tolerate it because if you tolerate it, you perpetuate it.

To my friend Glen, I want you to know that I am still in the struggle that you caused me to realize was more than just a bunch of guys having fun playing pranks on another person.

Finally, I am not sure where this country is going because, in the State of Texas, the Republican platform indicates that there are but two gender identities: You are either a biological male, or you are a biological female. This is in the Republican platform. I don't know where we are going, but it is not in the right direction because you are denying, by virtue of this kind of platform, the identity of transgender people.

Who are you to tell other people who they are? You tried it with me. When I was born, I was a Negro. It wasn't my decision. It wasn't my mother's decision. You denied me of my cultural integrity. You are still up to your old tricks, demeaning others to somehow conclude that it is better for you.

I don't know where we are going, but we are going in the wrong direction. We ought not let the State of Texas do this without some rebuff, some indication that we won't tolerate it because it is but a harbinger of things to come. This is the State of Texas where a lot of unpleasant things are born.

The State of Texas also wants to repeal the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The State of Texas wants to secede from the Union. I understand these things, but I don't understand denying a person's identity.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. CICILLINE for the time. I am an ally, and I am a friend you can count on. I will not allow myself to fail to speak up ever again in life when it comes to injustice against anybody. Dr. King was right: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. GREEN, and I know Glen is looking down very proud of your words tonight and the difference it is going to make to those who are watching.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING), a very thoughtful member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, as well as someone who serves on the Education and Labor Committee, a member of the Equality Caucus, and a longtime champion of equality, justice, women's reproductive healthcare, and

so many issues important to the LGBTQ+ community, and my friend.

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. CICILLINE for holding this Special Order. I am proud to rise to celebrate Pride Month.

This month, we honor the many contributions of the LGBTQ community while recognizing that the fight for equality is ongoing.

I recently watched a documentary on PBS called "The Lavender Scare." I was amazed to learn how liberating military service during World War II was for so many members of the LGBTQ community. The people from small towns and rural areas were relieved to meet so many others in the military who shared their feelings about sexuality and gender. They realized that they were not alone, and they could be valuable members of the war effort.

But then, when they returned home after V-E Day, they were confronted with the Red Scare and the nightmare that was Senator Joe McCarthy, who ruined many lives by calling on government officials to identify homosexuals and remove them from their government jobs, claiming they were vulnerable to blackmail by Communists and could be induced to reveal national secrets. It is a shameful part of our history that I never really knew about.

Thankfully, we have come a long way since the Lavender Scare and the Stonewall riots of 53 years ago, including the recognition of marriage equality in 2015, the enactment of landmark hate crime legislation, and extending title IX protections to include LGBTQ students. We have made progress toward equality, but there is much more work to be done.

We must remain vigilant in our fight to protect freedom of expression, equal marriage rights, and the right to access gender-affirming healthcare and healthcare free of discrimination. We also need to continue the fight against discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations, and much more.

To every LGBTQ person who is concerned about what the future holds, I will tell you this: I see you; I value you; I support you; and I will continue to fight for you in Congress.

I believe that all Americans should be able to live their lives free from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and I condemn all attempts to roll back hard-won progress.

As a member of the Equality Caucus, I have helped pass LGBTQ-related bills, including two pieces of legislation that were recently signed into law by President Biden.

The first of these new laws is the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act, which improves data collection for hate crimes, including hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity. This law also allows States to apply for grants to create hotlines to assist victims of hate crimes.

The other law designates the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, as a national memorial, honoring those who lost their lives to the senseless violence that took place on June 12, 2016.

I am proud to have cosponsored and voted in favor of H.R. 5, the Equality Act, which bars discrimination in the workplace, housing, and lending systems. I remember when we passed that that day, Mr. CICILLINE said to me: This bill will change lives.

For far too long, LGBTQ Americans have lived in fear of hate and discrimination. The passage of the Equality Act is an important step toward guaranteeing that every American has the fundamental right to equality under the law.

The House passed the Equality Act last year. It is time for the Senate to do the same.

I thank Mr. CICILLINE for bringing us here tonight to recognize and celebrate the LGBTQ community.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her beautiful words and for her great support for the LGBTQ community.

Madam Speaker, before I conclude tonight's Special Order hour, I want to make some final comments.

We celebrate pride as a community and very often people think of pride celebrations as joyous public events with lots of people gathering. We just had a pride celebration in Providence last weekend. The estimates were that over 100,000 people attended.

Part of the importance of pride is that it is a moment of great visibility for our community. For too long, members of the LGBTQ+ community were taught to be ashamed of who they are, to hide their true identity, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Pride was not only a time to celebrate the importance of our community but to be visible—to stop being invisible people but to be visible in the communities where we live and work.

Over the years, we have had extraordinary leaders from our community in business, medicine, politics, the arts, education, and all areas of life.

We have nine members of the LGBTQ community serving right here in the House and two in the United States Senate, examples of political leadership all across the country so that young people can see themselves in people who are accomplishing things in all areas of life—in the law, politics, medicine, and education.

It is a time of celebration, but we have to acknowledge this year that we are facing great challenges as a community. Particularly young trans kids and nonbinary kids are living in States where the adults are putting forth legislation that will make them invisible, that will subject them to horrific discrimination, that will not recognize the humanity of those young people.

It is a time of celebration. It is a time to take stock of all that we have done. But it is also a time for action to remind ourselves and the rest of the

country that we demand to live in a country where we enjoy full legal protections and we can live our lives free from discrimination of any kind.

The good news is, overwhelmingly, a vast majority of the American people support equality for LGBTQ people. They think discrimination is wrong.

Equality is a founding value of this country. In every State in America, a majority of voters believe that discrimination against LGBTQ people is wrong because a cornerstone of who we are as Americas is that we know discrimination is wrong.

It is only in the Republican Conference that we have to convince people that discrimination against the LGBTQ community is wrong. It is time for Congress and our Republican colleagues to catch up to the rest of the country that understands that when you deprive a member of the LGBTQ community of full equality, you not only hurt that individual but you hurt the whole community because the community is deprived of all that that person can accomplish and contribute.

That is the real harm of discrimination. It is not just to the individual. It is to the whole community and to our whole country.

Madam Speaker, as we mark Pride Month, we not only celebrate, but we also commit ourselves to make additional progress to continue in our fight for full equality. The LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus here in the House will continue to lead that fight in solidarity with all of our colleagues.

I am proud to be part of a political party that fully supports LGBTQ equality. When we introduced the Equality Act, it was cosponsored by every single Democrat in the Caucus. Everyone wanted to be a partner in this fight for full equality, and that is what the American people expect.

Madam Speaker, I say to the young people out there who may be struggling with their own sexual orientation, their own gender identity, feeling alone, feeling like they don't belong, feeling like they are not valued: I am standing on the floor of the House of Representatives as the chair of the Equality Caucus to tell you that you are valued. You are exactly how God created and expected you to be. You are loved by your community and your family. You will continue to be valued. You have people here in the Congress of the United States who are fighting every single day to make sure you can live in a country that will provide you with full protections and that you can live a life free from discrimination of any kind.

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I hope that will be some comfort to know that you have a President who said right from that rostrum, Madam Speaker, to the trans kids: I have your back.

That was the President of the United States who is the most powerful person on the planet saying to young people from our community he has your back.

So that has to give us a lot of hope of what future Pride celebrations will mean and the kind of country we live in. I thank all my colleagues who participated in tonight's Special Order hour.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

NEVER-ENDING FLOOD OF PROBLEMS COMING OUT OF PRESIDENT BIDEN'S WHITE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MANNING). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, there are so many issues that are facing our country right now thanks to the disastrous policies coming out of the Biden administration.

Inflation is up 8.6 percent. Economists are predicting a recession within 12 months or less. Our energy crisis—which is totally preventable—is only getting worse. We need to turn our spigots back on, Madam Speaker. We are relying on foreign adversaries—mostly enemies, I feel like most of the time—to produce oil instead of turning our spigots back on, as I stated.

The Biden administration is still shoving Americans toward electric cars which cost on average \$60,000. That is more than the average Tennessean makes in a year. I know for folks living in the Beltway that is nothing to them, but to the average working American, that is a whole heck of a lot of money. The environmental problems that these cars cause with their batteries and the slave labor to produce them in these foreign countries that we have no regulations over is despicable, and for anybody to wrap themselves up around that is part of the problem.

Gas hit \$5 per gallon last week—\$5. People can't even afford to go to work in most areas. President Biden is trying to act like he is doing something about it by proposing a 3-month gas tax suspension.

Madam Speaker, that is laughable. That is laughable. The way it is rising they will save no money. At best it is a short-term solution to a long-term problem, and at worst it is just an attempt to distract Americans from the Biden administration's refusal to turn our oil spigots back on. Also, it would leave a \$10 billion hole in the highway trust fund.

Also, the baby formula crisis is still looming. We have got this problem, and

the solution that Washington offered was to pay more FDA bureaucrats more money and not solve the problem.

The Democratic Party has accused the Republicans of some awful things, but one of them was that we were standing in the way of this when, in fact, we voted for the compromise bill, but the national media, which is so in the tank for this administration, refuses to mention it.

In closing, I thank all my colleagues who are here tonight to call out the never-ending flood of problems coming out of President Biden's White House.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), who is Mr. Positive.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, every weekend we go home, and I am about to go back to Wisconsin for a couple more weeks. When we get back home, of course, we always talk to our constituents. I would like to address my speech tonight to the issue that is most on their mind.

Now, when we go back to Wisconsin in June we spend a lot of time on what they call breakfast on the farm because June is Dairy Promotion Month in Wisconsin, and with Dairy Promotion Month there are breakfasts on the farm where you have an opportunity to see so many of your constituents.

When back home, I go through the number one and number two issues. The number one issue is gasoline inflation. Everybody talks about it. They talk about how it is squeezing their budget and about how they are not able to go on trips as much as they used to. They have got to cut back on the type of food that they buy. So number one would be gas inflation.

I suppose number two would be food inflation because they talk about having to buy cuts of meat that aren't as good or other food products that aren't as good as they were before.

I think probably number three is housing inflation. When you look for a new house now, Madam Speaker, it costs so much more than it did a year ago.

I personally believe there are other issues that are as significant and perhaps in the long term more significant for America:

Are we going to wrap up Ukraine?

What are we going to do at our border?

What are we going to do about the over 110,000 people dying of drug overdoses every year?

But, obviously, in my district the number one issue is inflation, and I want to talk about how we got there.

How did we get there?

Any middle school C student should know that inflation is caused by excessive government spending which has to be covered by the Federal Reserve.

What are President Biden's signature accomplishments?

First of all, a \$1.9 trillion bill called the American Rescue Plan came right